



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/666,901
Applicant: Nicholls *et al.* *Examiner:* Daniel H. Miller
Filed: September 18, 2003 *Art Unit:* 1775
For: ARTIFICIAL TURF BACKING

DECLARATION OF DR. PHIL STRICKLEN UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Phil Stricklen, hereby declare that:

1. I am the Director of Research and Development for Sportex Construction Services, Inc., an affiliate of the Applicant. My educational and work background are set forth in the attached resume.

2. This declaration is made in support of and is submitted with the Reply Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111 in response to the Office Action wherein the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9 and 11 of the above application on the grounds of "obviousness" under 35 U.S.C. §103.

3. This declaration will address a number of factors relevant to the issue of obviousness of the claimed invention, including unexpected results and commercial success.

4. I have Ph. D. in Inorganic Chemistry and have twenty years of experience in developing new polymers, fibers, and synthetic turf products as an individual contributor, team member, and group supervisor.